

Open Actions

Reference	Action	Assigned to:	Due Date	Response
OSC – 13 March Item 7.1	Key workers What housing support is the Council providing to help key workers in adult social services and children’s services?	Mark Baigent / Debbie Jones	22/03/18	<p>Following the Council’s Affordability Commission the Council has introduced a new rental tenure called Tower Hamlets Living Rents based on average median income levels of Borough residents which are £31,645 pa, and working on the premise that it is reasonable to spend a third of income on rents. The first of these were let last year and more are expected to come through in the next two years as new developments complete.</p> <p>In terms of shared ownership homes being developed in the Borough the homes are initially ring-fenced for Borough residents to purchase and priority will also be given to people who have permanent employment in the Borough.</p>
OSC – 22 February Item 3.1	Children’s Services partnerships At the Children’s Services spotlight session at Overview and Scrutiny on 22 February, Sir Alan Wood highlighted the importance of partnership working. What is the Council doing to develop stronger partnerships with health services, the police and the voluntary sector to support children’s services? More specifically, how is the Council improving partner engagement to deliver Early Help services?	Debbie Jones	22/03/18	<p>Since the outcome of our Ofsted Inspection we have convened a Children’s Services Improvement Board which is independently chaired by Sir Alan Wood. This Board has representation from across the partnership at senior level including the Borough Commander, Managing Director of the CCG and two headteachers. The Chair of the LSCB, Steve Ashley also attends to represent the wider partnership. The Department for Education recently undertook a focus group with partners, specifically around Children’s Services. The feedback included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There was a consensus amongst the group that there has historically been relatively good engagement between partners and children’s social services, and improvement work since the Ofsted inspection has helped to strengthen this.” • “The new threshold document has been very well received by partners, all of whom expressed relief that it now aligns with the standard four-tier approach used by most Council’s across London. The majority of partners felt communication around the new document has been effective with suitable training offered.” • “Overall, the majority of partners felt engaged with the Improvement Board and were aware of ongoing work in relation to the improvement plan. In particular there is cautious optimism around current improvement work on early help – having previously been viewed as “a big black hole” if thresholds weren’t met, the increased consideration around working with the wider family and not looking at the child in isolation is welcomed.”

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				<p>The Chair of the LSCB also attends the Operation Group of the Improvement Board and provides useful challenge and oversight of the improvement journey. The Operational Board of the LSCB has agreed to provide independent oversight and scrutiny of the Improvement Plan and will be asked to consider recommendations for changing RAG ratings to Green.</p> <p>In terms of Early Help, the implementation of the new threshold document has been a positive step for partnership working, creating a better shared understanding of thresholds and understanding of decision making. Partnership working in respect to Early Help will be coordinated through a new Early Help Subgroup of the LSCB.</p>
OSC – 22 February Item 5.8	<p>ICT and Children’s Services What percentage of the £16m IT spend is allocated to Children’s services?</p>	Neville Murton	22 March 2018	<p>This is a significant financial investment and the ICT transformation programme has been created and designed to not only fix and improve IT across the Council but also enables the Council to transform the way it is designed and delivers services (as outlined in the Council’s Blueprint for 2022) in the future.</p> <p>The £16m investment is for ICT improvements across the whole council and will benefit all service areas including Children’s Services.</p> <p>The early stages of the programme, is underway and is focused on fixing and improving the underlying infrastructure/foundation that is required, in order to build and deliver improvements and transformation planned.</p>
	<p>ICT and Children’s Services How are children’s services prioritised?</p>			<p>Key actions taken to prioritise and meet the needs of the Children’s Services have been/are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritising the installation of internal network at Mulberry Place in order not to impact work required to respond to Ofsted inspection 2. Providing technical solutions e.g. laptops and support so that staff could continue to work during periods when IT was not available to the rest of the organisation, due to works being undertaken 3. Carrying out the upgrade of internal networks at 15 Children’s centres in order that Wi-Fi and other services will be completed at this sites in advance of others 4. Designing and implementing changes to telephony set up for Children’s Services first to meet needs of service and its users.

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OSC – 22 February Item 5.9	<p>Housing Community Benefit Society</p> <p>Has there been a change of policy in regards to establishing a Housing Community Benefit Society (p.64)</p>	Mark Baigent	22 March 2018	<p>The Council established Mulberry Housing Society as a Community Benefit Society registered with the Financial Conduct Authority following the Mayor’s approval in February 2017 and the subsequent recruitment of three independent Board members. Mulberry HS is likely to work with the Council on acquisitions of affordable housing during 2018/19, subject to viability and positively concluding negotiations currently underway with developers.</p>
	<p>Town Hall Costs</p> <p>Update on Town Hall development costs</p>	Neville Murton	22 March 2018	<p>Response circulated separately with this action log</p>
	<p>Affordable housing</p> <p>£119m in affordable housing- has this been spent since last discussed in December?</p>	Neville Murton	22 March 2018	<p>Capital estimates totalling £119 million were adopted by the Mayor in November 2017 to finance the additional supply of Affordable Housing units. This was made up of three elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of a portfolio of surplus dwellings from Poplar HARCA - £19 million • Acquisition of additional dwellings for use as temporary accommodation - £40 million • Acquisition of Section 106 properties within the borough - £60 million <p><u>Poplar HARCA / Dwellings for use as Temporary Accommodation</u> The additional approvals increased the total capital estimate by £59 million from the original £30 million that was adopted for the provision of temporary accommodation in January 2017. The revised budget for the acquisition of properties for use as temporary accommodation is therefore £89 million.</p> <p>To date, £54.6 million of expenditure has been incurred on the acquisition of properties from existing Council leaseholders and purchases from Poplar HARCA, meaning that £24.6 million of the additional capital estimate has therefore been spent.</p> <p>The Council has a further tranche of acquisitions from Poplar HARCA scheduled before the end of the financial year, and is waiting to be informed of the results of other bids that have recently been submitted for the purchase of units outside the borough.</p> <p><u>Section 106 properties</u> This capital estimate was adopted to enable the Council to take advantage of opportunities to purchase new housing in the borough, built by developers as part of their planning obligations (‘s106 properties’). To date the Council has submitted four bids but has yet to be informed whether these are successful. No expenditure has therefore been incurred against this capital estimate.</p>

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<p>OSC – 22 February Item 5.9</p>	<p>Page 345 – Appendix 2.3 Health, Adults & Community Safety</p> <p>What are the reasons for the £0.4m underspend in substance misuse services? (p.52)</p>	<p>Neville Murton</p>	<p>22 March 2018</p>	<p>The majority of the underspend is occurring against the £600k budget allocated to residential rehabilitation services within the substance misuse services. This budget is used for spot purchase placements for drug / alcohol users who are not able to progress within community services. There has been decreasing use of this budget in recent years largely because almost all service users can be supported through community based services. The number of applications for residential rehabilitation funding this year has been abnormally low to date and therefore spend has been low. This has been investigated with Reset drug / alcohol treatment service and it is thought it may be due in part to the more complete offer now available from community services. However, we are continuing to look into this underspend in order to ensure there is no unmet need”.</p>
<p>OSC – 22 February</p>	<p>Health scrutiny to consider violence against A&E staff</p>	<p>Daniel Kerr</p>	<p>22 March 2018</p>	<p>This has been raised with the scrutiny officer for health scrutiny sub-committee to be incorporated into the work programme for 2018/19.</p>
<p>OSC 13 December 2017 Item 7.1 Community Safety</p>	<p>How is MOPAC funding in A&E in Royal London used?</p>	<p>Debbie Jones</p>	<p>22 March 2018</p>	<p>MOPAC grant money funds the St. Giles MTU (Major trauma Unit) Youth Specialist Support workers through the Pan London RedThread service MOPAC commission, with RedThread subcontracting St. Giles to deliver the service at the Royal London. MOPAC funded services also include the associated Young Peoples’ Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, provided by Solace at The Royal London A&E.</p> <p>The project started late, and according to the St Giles contract, it is now expected to spend £75,000 over the two years.</p>
<p>Community safety ward walkabouts with individual Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Councillor invitations do not appear to be happening regularly in some wards. Please provide dates of the last walk abouts and how you are ensuring that invitation is addressed to all councillors regularly?</p>	<p>Ann Corbett</p>	<p>22 March 2018</p>	<p>Councillor and community representation is actively promoted as soon as walkabout and safer neighbourhood panel dates have been confirmed by the local SNT Sergeant to the Community Safety Officer in the Council organising them. Whilst the programme for 2018/19 is yet to be agreed (after mayoral elections), the following councillor invitation process was followed for the 2017 programme of 18 ward walkabouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2016: Ward councillors were informed by letter in November 2016 (by email and hard copy in members pigeon holes and through members briefing/bulletin) of the format of the 2017 programme of Community Safety Ward Walkabouts and the new Roadshows. They were also advised that dates would be confirmed once SNT’s had confirmed their Ward Panel Dates, as the aim was also to promote attendance at these meetings by holding the 	

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walkabouts directly before the Panel met.

- **3 Weeks before:** Outlook calendar meeting invites are sent to councillors in the ward where the walkabout is being scheduled at least 3 weeks before the date. Confirmation of the meeting point to be confirmed based on the local issues being identified. Councillors are given an opportunity at this point to provide their local intelligence on community issues, so that this is considered for the route being planned. They are also encouraged to share the date and location of the walkabout with the local community, to ensure they are aware and attend if they wish to.
- **1 Week before:** A briefing (including the meeting point) and route map of the confirmed walkabout is sent to all confirmed attendees and ward councillors who haven't confirmed attendance or sent apologies are copied in. The SNTs also start tweeting and add information about the event onto Facebook and OWL neighbourhood alert/watch system for members of the public to become aware.

Details of correspondence dates can be provided upon individual request by councillors for their ward walkabouts. The dates of the Ward Walkabouts held in 2017 are as follows:

Ward	Date of Walkabout
Bow West	Tuesday 24th January 2017
Spitalfields & Banglatown	Thursday 26th January 2017
St Peters	Tuesday 7th February 2017
Whitechapel	Wednesday 15th February 2017
Shadwell	Thursday 16th February 2017
Poplar	Thursday 2nd March 2017
Bow East	Thursday 9th March
St Dunstan's & Stepney Green	Friday 10th March 2017
Bethnal Green	Monday 10th April 2017
Blackwall & Canary Wharf	Thursday 13th April 2017
Mile End	Wednesday 19th April 2017
St Katharine's & Wapping	Friday 7th July 2017
Weavers	Tuesday 25th July 2017
Bromley North	Thursday 10th August 2017
Limehouse	Tuesday 15th August 2017

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				Island Gardens	Friday 18th August 2017
				Bromley South	Tuesday 22nd August 2017
				Lansbury	Friday 8th September 2017

Closed Actions

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OSC 13 March 2018 Item 7.1 & OSC 24/01/18 Item 11.2	S.106 monies What is the amount of s.106 contributions received and how much of that figure has been committed?	Neville Murton	13/03/18	<p>As at 31st December 2017, the Council held £101.95 million of Section 106 resources of which £28.10 million relates to funding which must be passed to statutory organisations such as Transport for London or National Health Service partners. Of the residual £73.85 million which is under the control of the Council, £42.96 million has been allocated to projects in accordance with the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Framework.</p> <p>The remaining £30.89 million is made up of £21.38 million that has been ring-fenced by services for specific uses in accordance with the terms of the particular section 106 agreements but has not yet been progressed and approved via the IDF process. The Council has discretion over the remaining balance of £9.51 million which is currently not ring-fenced to projects although conditions might apply to particular Section 106 resources held within this balance.</p>